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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,350	03/07/2001	Chun Hsiang Lai	JCLA6643	4896

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EXAMINER
NADAV, ORI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2811	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/801,350	LAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ORI NADAV	2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 July 2011*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,13 and 15* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,13 and 15* is/are rejected.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oswald (4,445,435) or Swallow et al. (3,750,586) or Kirsch (3,596,137), each in view of Lin (5,982,601).

Regarding claims 1-2 and 13, Oswald teaches in figure 1 and related text a protection circuit comprising:

a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) circuit (the circuit including SCR 46), which comprises a first connection terminal, a second connection terminal, and a third connection terminal, wherein the first connection terminal and the second connection terminal are respectively and directly connected to an I/O pad and a ground voltage, so as to discharge the electrostatic charges; and

an anti-latch-up circuit (the circuit which includes in part elements 82, 86) which comprises a fourth connection terminal directly connected to a voltage source, a fifth connection terminal directly coupled to the ground voltage, and a sixth connection terminal directly connected to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit, and

a first diode 48 having an anode directly connected to the I/O pad and a cathode directly connected to the fourth connection terminal, wherein when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and

a second diode (any other diode), having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the I/O pad, and

wherein the anti-latch-up signal sent from the sixth connection terminal to the SCR circuit comprises a voltage signal.

Oswald does not explicitly state that when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and does not teach using the device in an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 13, Swallow et al. teach in figure 2 and related text a protection circuit comprising:

a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) circuit (the circuit including SCR Q2), which comprises a first connection terminal, a second connection terminal, and a third connection terminal, wherein the first connection terminal and the second connection terminal are respectively and directly connected to an I/O pad and a ground voltage, so as to discharge the electrostatic charges; and

an anti-latch-up circuit (the circuit which includes in part element C2, R5) which comprises a fourth connection terminal directly connected to a voltage source, a fifth connection terminal directly coupled to the ground voltage, and a sixth connection terminal directly connected to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit, and

a first diode D1 having an anode directly connected to the I/O pad and a cathode directly connected to the fourth connection terminal, wherein when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and

a second diode (any other diode in the circuit), having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the I/O pad, and

wherein the anti-latch-up signal sent from the sixth connection terminal to the SCR circuit comprises a voltage signal.

Swallow et al. do not explicitly state that when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and does not teach using the device in an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 13, Kirsch teaches in figure 6 and related text a protection circuit comprising:

a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) circuit (the circuit including SCR 11), which comprises a first connection terminal, a second connection terminal, and a third connection terminal, wherein the first connection terminal and the second connection terminal are respectively and directly connected to an I/O pad and a ground voltage, so as to discharge the electrostatic charges; and

an anti-latch-up circuit (the circuit which includes in part elements C5, R15) which comprises a fourth connection terminal directly connected to a voltage source, a fifth connection terminal directly coupled to the ground voltage, and a sixth connection terminal directly connected to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit, and

a first diode D15 having an anode directly connected to the I/O pad and a cathode directly connected to the fourth connection terminal, wherein when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and

a second diode (any other diode), having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the I/O pad, and

wherein the anti-latch-up signal sent from the sixth connection terminal to the SCR circuit comprises a voltage signal.

Kirsch does not explicitly state that when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, and does not teach using the device in an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit.

Lin teaches in figures 6, 9 and 10 and related text connections to voltage Vh or to an I/O pad, wherein the device is used in an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use any of prior art's devices as an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit by providing connections to a voltage or to an I/O pad, such that when an over positive voltage does not occur on the I/O pad, the first diode is not conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit substantially generates an anti-latch-up signal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit according to the voltage source so as to prevent latching up of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and when the over positive voltage occurs on the I/O pad, the first diode is conducted, and the anti-latch-up circuit does not substantially generate the anti-latch-up signal in response to the conduction of the first diode, in order to provide proper protection to the circuit, when using the device as an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Lin teaches in figure 5 an SCR circuit comprises: a P-type substrate; an N well, formed in the p-type substrate; a first P+ doped region, formed in the P-type substrate and coupled to the ground voltage GND; a first N+ doped region, formed in the P-type substrate, adjacent to the first P+ doped region, and coupled to the ground voltage GND; a second N+ doped region, formed between the P-type substrate and the N well, adjacent to the first N+ doped region, and coupled via the third connection terminal of SCR circuit to the sixth connection terminal of the anti-latch-up circuit A, serving as a guard ring to collect electrons to avoid latch up when the anti-

latch-up circuit sends signal through the sixth connection terminal to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit during normal operation, and floating when the anti-latch-up circuit sends no signal to the SCR circuit during an ESD event;
a second P+ doped region, formed in the N well, adjacent to the second N+ doped region, and coupled to the I/0 pad 1; and a third N+ doped region, formed in the N well, adjacent to the second P+ doped region, and coupled to the voltage source (the pad line),

wherein Lin teaches in figure 6C an anti-latch-up circuit comprises: a capacitor C, having a first contact end and a second contact end, respectively coupled to the second N+ doped region and the ground voltage, and a resistor R, having a first end and a second end, respectively coupled to the voltage source and the second N+ doped region.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's device as taught by Lin, in order to improve the protection capabilities of the device.

Regarding claim 15, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a RC delay time of the anti-latch-up circuit is smaller than a voltage rising time of an IC power but greater than a voltage rising time of an ESD pulse in prior art's device in order to improve the protection capabilities of the device.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ORI NADAV whose telephone number is 571-272-1660. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7 AM to 4 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Gurley can be reached on 571-272-1670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

O.N.
8/17/2011

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PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800